



# VA National Acquisition Center's (NAC) FEDERAL SUPPLY SCHEDULE (FSS) MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER

*Providing world class healthcare products & services to the federal marketplace*

## Training Topic: What is HIPPA & BAA?

- **What is HIPAA** - HIPAA stands for the "Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996" and it addresses the use and disclosure of individuals' health information, which is called protected health information (PHI).
- **What information is covered under HIPAA** - All medical records and other individually identifiable health information used or disclosed by a Federal Government entity in any form, whether electronically, on paper, or orally.
- **What is a Business Associate** - A business associate is a person, organization, or contractor that provides certain functions or services for or to a Federal Government entity involving the use and/or disclosure of PHI.
- **What is a Business Associate Agreement (BAA)** - When a Federal Government entity uses a contractor or other non-workforce member to perform a business associate service or activity, they are required to provide certain protections for the information in a business associate agreement. In the BAA, the Federal Government entity must impose specified written safeguards on the individually identifiable health information used or disclosed by its business associates.
- **Helpful Information about BAA:**
  - Some common procurement functions that require a BAA are transcription services, consultation, medical equipment, medical technology services, and quality assurance.
  - Exemptions for a BAA exist. Please check the VHA Handbook 1600.01 for guidance: [http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub\\_ID=1414](http://www1.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1414).
  - Contracts are not the only acquisition vehicles that require BAAs; purchase orders, letter contracts, job orders, task orders and modifications warrant BAAs.
  - Procurement managers should ensure acquisition vehicles have appropriate HIPAA and Privacy Act notification language.
  - Acquisition vehicles for local services only, require a BAA to be incorporated into local contract paperwork.
  - Please review the following website in order to obtain the latest VA BAA template: <http://vaww.vhaco.va.gov/privacy/baa/vhabaawebsite.doc>.
  - A BAA template used for local agreements can be modified to identify local incident reporting information to include the name of a local contact person (Contracting Officer, Contracting Officer Technical Representative (COTR), Privacy Officer, or an Information Security Officer (ISO)) and their local address. Any further modifications to the standard VA, Veterans Healthcare Administration (VHA) BAA template needs to be approved by the Office of Regional Counsel or the VHA Privacy Office.

- Copies of BAAs executed at the VISN or Regional level need to be passed down to the facility level.
- Services that are known to be provided at multiple VHA facilities qualify for a National BAA, which are negotiated and executed by the VHA Privacy Office.
- A list of executed National BAAs can be viewed by accessing the following website:  
<http://vaww.vhaco.va.gov/privacy/signedbaa1.htm>.
- You can view the BAA Knowledge Library by reviewing the following website:  
<http://vaww.vhaco.va.gov/privacy/baa.htm>.

If you would like to learn more about HIPAA and BAAs, please feel free to contact Mr. James "Mickey" Gwyn at (615)898-1512 and/or [James.Gwyn@va.gov](mailto:James.Gwyn@va.gov).

*If you have any questions/concerns or would like to learn more about a specific topic and/or issue, please feel free to contact the FSS helpdesk at (708)786-7737 and/or [helpdesk.ammhinfss@va.gov](mailto:helpdesk.ammhinfss@va.gov).*

## RECENTLY AWARDED FSS CONTRACTS (JANUARY 2010)

Pharmaceutical, Dental, Patient Mobility, & X-Ray (Website:  
<http://www1.va.gov/oamm/oa/nac/fsss/pharmfss.cfm>)

- Ranbaxy Pharmaceuticals, Inc.: V797P-5144B (Large Pharmaceutical Business)
- Ther-Rx Corporation: V797P-5148B (Small Pharmaceutical Business)

Medical/Surgical Equipment (Website: <http://www1.va.gov/oamm/oa/nac/fsss/medequipsupfss.cfm>)

- TrillaMed, Inc.: V797P-4269B (Small, Disabled Veteran Owned, Disadvantaged Med/Surg Business)
- 3 R Resources, Inc.: V797P-4275B (Large Med/Surg Business)
- Americare, LLC.: V797P-4235B (Small, Disabled Veteran Owned, Disadvantaged Med/Surg Business)
- ConMed Corporation DBA ConMed Linvatec: V797P-4272B (Large Med/Surg Business)

Medical Professional & Laboratory Testing Services & Cost-Per-Test (Website:  
<http://www1.va.gov/oamm/oa/nac/fsss/fssprotrain.cfm>)

- Medix Staffing Solutions: V797P-7245A (Large Professional Medical Services Business)
- Associate Medical Professionals: V797P-7249A (Small Professional Medical Services Business)
- Health Carousel, LLC.: V797P-7250A (Small Professional Medical Services Business)
- Quality Staffing Solutions, Inc.: V797P-7248A (Small, Woman Owned Professional Medical Services Business)
- GLC On-The-Go: V797P-7247A (Large Professional Medical Services Business)
- Onyx Healthcare, LLC. DBA Onyx M.D.: V797P-7253A (Small Professional Medical Services Business)

***In order to obtain pricing information for all of the companies referenced above, please review the NAC Search Tool (<http://www1.va.gov/nac/index.cfm>) or GSA E-Library (<http://www.gsaelibrary.gsa.gov/ElibMain/scheduleList.do>).***

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Please note that we do not currently have any FSS customer training classes scheduled at this time. However if you would like to attend a training session, schedule a new one, or request additional information, please contact Ms. Veronica Hazen at [Veronica.Hazen@va.gov](mailto:Veronica.Hazen@va.gov). Please note that the FSS Customer Training is **ONLY APPLICABLE TO GOVERNMENT AGENCIES**.